

Message Text

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UNCLAS SECTION 1 OF 2 ROME 16264

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: UN, WFC, FAO

SUBJ: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S FOLLOW-UP PROPOSALS
FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

THERE FOLLOWS THE TEXT OF FAO COUNCIL DOCUMENT CL 64/LIM/4,
NOVEMBER 1974, ISSUED TODAY, NOVEMBER 21, WHICH IS TO BE
DISCUSSED GENERALLY ON FRIDAY, AND TO BE CONSIDERED FOR
ACTION ON TUESDAY AND WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 27 AND 28:

/INTRODUCTION/

1. THE EXTRACTS FROM THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD
CONFERENCE GIVEN IN DOCUMENT CL 64/LIM/3 COVER AN ENORMOUSLY
WIDE FIELD OF ACTIVITIES, AND IT IS CLEARLY IMPOSSIBLE FOR
EITHER THE COUNCIL OR THE SECRETARIAT TO ANALYZE THEIR
FULL IMPLICATIONS IN THE SPACE OF A FEW DAYS.
THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SUGGESTS, THEREFORE, THAT ATTENTION BE
CONCENTRATED AT THE PRESENT STAGE ON ISSUES IN RESPECT OF
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WHICH COUNCIL ACTION SEEMS TO HIM TO BE PARTICULARLY URGENT

AND IMPORTANT, ESPECIALLY THOSE RAISED BY THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON ARRANGEMENTS FOR FOLLOW-UP ACTION. PROPOSALS FOR IMPLEMENTING OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF CONCERN TO THE GOVERNING BODIES WILL EITHER BE INCLUDED IN THE PROPOSED PROGRAMME OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1976-77, OR WILL BE BROUGHT SEPARATELY TO THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL AT ITS SESSION IN MID-1975.

/COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY/

2. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL BELIEVES THAT THIS COMMITTEE SHOULD START TO FUNCTION IN THE FIRST HALF OF 1975. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE HAS RECOMMENDED THAT IT BE CREATED "AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE FAO COUNCIL". THIS REQUIRES FORMAL ACTION BY THE FAO CONFERENCE, AS IN THE RECENT CASES OF THE COMMITTEE ON FORESTRY AND THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE. A MODIFICATION OF ARTICLE V.6 OF THE CONSTITUTION IS INVOLVED, AS WELL AS THE ADOPTION OF A NEW GENERAL RULE. SINCE THE CONFERENCE WILL MEET ONLY AT THE END OF 1975, AND THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE NEW BODY AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL CANNOT TAKE PLACE BEFORE THAT TIME, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL PROPOSES THAT HE BE AUTHORIZED TO TAKE INTERIM MEASURES PENDING CONFERENCE ACTION. MORE SPECIFICALLY, HE WOULD PROPOSE TO CONVENE, UNDER ARTICLE VI.5 OF THE CONSTITUTION, ONE OR MORE /AD HOC/ CONSULTATIONS ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY, SUCH CONSULTATIONS BEING OPEN TO ALL MEMBER NATIONS, AND CHARGED WITH INITIATING THE TASKS ENVISAGED FOR THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY WHEN FORMALLY ESTABLISHED. HE ALSO SEEKS APPROVAL OF THE COUNCIL FOR THE ATTENDANCE OF THE UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS AT SUCH MEETINGS, IF IT SHOULD SO REQUEST. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ALSO PROPOSES THAT THE COUNCIL REFER TO THE COMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTIONAL AND LEGAL MATTERS THE QUESTION OF PREPARING THE NECESSARY MODIFICATIONS TO THE CONSTITUTION AND THE GENERAL RULES WHICH WOULD PERMIT THE CONFERENCE, IN NOVEMBER 1975, TO ESTABLISH THE COMMITTEE ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY AS A STANDING COMMITTEE OF THE COUNCIL.

3. THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO CONSIDER THE INTERIM ARRANGEMENTS
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FOR 1975 IN MORE DETAIL UNDER ITEM 7(A) OF ITS AGENDA, DEALING WITH THE DRAFT INTERNATIONAL UNDERTAKING ON WORLD FOOD SECURITY.

/COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES/

4. THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME WAS CONSTITUTED JOINTLY BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

AND THE FAO CONFERENCE, AND CAN THEREFORE ONLY BE "RECONSTITUTED" BY THE SAME BODIES. EVEN IF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTS AT ITS PRESENT SESSION, THE FAO CONFERENCE WILL MEET ONLY IN A YEAR'S TIME, AND HERE AGAIN INTERIM MEASURES WILL BE NECESSARY. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL PROPOSES THAT THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZE HIM TO CONSULT THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OF THE WORLD FOOD PROGRAMME, WITH A VIEW TO INITIATING MEASURES THAT WOULD FACILITATE THE EFFECTIVE FUNCTIONING, IN 1975, OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE AS A COMMITTEE ON FOOD AID POLICIES AND PROGRAMMES. SINCE SUCH MEASURES WILL DEPEND, IN THE FIRST INSTANCE, ON THE ACTION TAKEN BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, IT IS DIFFICULT FOR THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL TO BE SPECIFIC AT THIS STAGE. ONE POSSIBILITY THAT MIGHT BE EXPLORED WOULD BE TO ORGANIZE ONE OR MORE SPECIAL SESSIONS OF THE INTERGOVERNMENTAL COMMITTEE IN 1975 DEVOTED TO THE WIDER RESPONSIBILITIES ENVISAGED FOR IT UNDER THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION, ON THE BASIS OF WORKING DOCUMENTS TO BE PREPARED AS APPROPRIATE BY THE UNITED NATIONS, FAO AND WFP. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING THE COUNCIL'S PRELIMINARY VIEWS AS TO WHETHER RECONSTITUTION TO MEET THE WIDER OBJECTIVES PROPOSED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE SHOULD HAVE AN IMPACT ON THE QUESTION OF MEMBERSHIP OF THE COMMITTEE.

/WORLD FOOD COUNCIL/

5. THE FORMAL ESTABLISHMENT OF THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL DEPENDS ON DECISIONS OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY. THE FAO COUNCIL WILL NOTE THAT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE FORESEES THE NEW BODY AS BEING "SERVICED WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF FAO, WITH HEADQUARTERS IN ROME." THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL THEREFORE CONSIDERS IT ESSENTIAL, TO FACILITATE THE

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FORTHCOMING DEBATES IN THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, THAT THE COUNCIL AUTHORIZE HIM TO OFFER ALL NECESSARY SERVICING AND LOGISTICAL FACILITIES FOR THE NEW BODY. AT THIS STAGE, HE CANNOT FORESEE THE SPECIFIC IMPLICATIONS, WHICH WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE UNITED NATIONS AS WELL AS WITH THE OTHER AGENCIES WITH WHICH THE WORLD FOOD COUNCIL WILL BE EXPECTED TO WORK. FROM COMMENTS MADE AT THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE, IT WILL OBVIOUSLY BE NECESSARY TO FIND A MIDDLE PATH BETWEEN ON THE ONE HAND THE RELUCTANCE OF GOVERNMENTS TO SET UP "ANOTHER LAYER OF INTERNATIONAL BUREAUCRACY," AND ON THE OTHER HAND THEIR DESIRE TO ESTABLISH AN ORGAN COMBINING POLITICAL AND TECHNICAL AUTHORITY, AND FUNCTIONING AT A HIGH LEVEL.

6. SHOULD THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY DECIDE, IN VIEW OF THE URGENCY OF THE WORLD FOOD SITUATION, TO ESTABLISH THE NEW COUNCIL IMMEDIATELY, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL BELIEVES HE SHOULD BE EMPOWERED TO OFFER THE NECESSARY FACILITIES WITH IMMEDIATE EFFECT, AND TO MAKE THE NECESSARY COMMITMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PARAGRAPH 13 BELOW.

/INVESTMENT/

7. HERE AGAIN THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL REQUESTS CONTINGENT APPROVAL FROM THE COUNCIL TO MAKE A COOPERATIVE ARRANGEMENT WITH THE APPROPRIATE AUTHORITIES FOR SERVICING THE PROPOSED INTERNATIONAL FUND FOR AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ALSO REQUESTS THE COUNCIL'S APPROVAL FOR FAO TO PARTICIPATE IN ORGANIZING THE PROPOSED CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON FOOD PRODUCTION AND INVESTMENT IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES (CGFPI), BOTH BY ACTING AS CO-SPONSOR WITH THE WORLD BANK AND UNDP, AND BY PROVIDING JOINT SECRETARIAT SERVICES WITH THE OTHER TWO ORGANIZATIONS. THE DIMENSIONS OF THESE SERVICES WILL HAVE TO BE DISCUSSED WITH THE CO-SPONSORS IN THE LIGHT OF GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION ON THIS RECOMMENDATION, AND NO SPECIFIC INDICATION CAN BE GIVEN AT THIS STAGE. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WOULD, HOWEVER, APPRECIATE AUTHORITY TO MAKE THE NECESSARY COMMITMENTS WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PARAGRAPH 13 BELOW, SO THAT WORK CAN BE STARTED AS SOON

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AS POSSIBLE.

/FERTILIZERS AND PESTICIDES/

8. THE RESOLUTIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE ON THESE TWO SUBJECTS DO NOT IMPLY ANY MAJOR RE-DIRECTION OF FAO'S EFFORTS, BUT RATHER AN ACCELERATION OR INTENSIFICATION OF ACTIVITIES ALREADY PLANNED, WITHIN AN IMPROVED POLICY FRAMEWORK. PARTICULAR REFERENCE IS MADE TO THE REQUEST THAT THE COMMISSION ON FERTILIZERS CARRY OUT, AS A MATTER OF URGENCY, AN AUTHORITATIVE ANALYSIS OF THE LONG-TERM FERTILIZER SUPPLY AND DEMAND POSITION, AND TO THE CALL FOR FAO TO CONVENE ON AN URGENT BASIS AN /AD HOC/ CONSULTATION ON PESTICIDES. IN VIEW OF THE GREAT IMPORTANCE OF THESE QUESTIONS AT THE PRESENT TIME, THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SEEKS AUTHORITY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY MEASURES AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TO IMPLEMENT THESE TWO RESOLUTIONS, WITHIN THE FINANCIAL FRAMEWORK OF PARAGRAPH 13 BELOW.

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SUBJ: FAO DIRECTOR-GENERAL'S FOLLOW-UP PROPOSALS
FOR WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE

/RESEARCH/

9. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON RESEARCH IS A RELATIVELY COMPLEX ONE, WHICH RAISES A SERIES OF IMPORTANT ISSUES, IN PARTICULAR THE LINKAGES BETWEEN INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL RESEARCH AND EXTENSION, AND THE NEED FOR STRENGTHENING NATIONAL RESEARCH. THE CONSULTATIVE GROUP ON INTERNATIONAL AGRICULTURAL RESEARCH (CGIAR) AND ITS TECHNICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ARE REQUESTED, IN THE CONFERENCE'S DECISION ON FOLLOW-UP ACTION, TO ASSUME LEADERSHIP IN FOLLOWING UP ON THE RESEARCH ASPECTS OF THIS RESOLUTION. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SEEKS AUTHORITY, WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PARAGRAPH 13 BELOW, TO MAKE WHATEVER ADDITIONAL INPUT MAY BE AGREED UPON BY THE THREE

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SPONSORING AGENCIES WITH A VIEW TO ENSURING ITS EARLY IMPLEMENTATION.

/GLOBAL INFORMATION AND EARLY WARNING SYSTEM ON FOOD AND AGRICULTURE/

10. THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION ON THIS SUBJECT IS GENERALLY CONSIDERED TO BE ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT ADOPTED, AND THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL BELIEVES IT SHOULD BE IMPLEMENTED BY FAO WITH A SENSE OF GREAT URGENCY. AS THE COUNCIL WILL BE AWARE, FAO IS ALREADY CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES OF THIS NATURE. THE THRUST OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RESOLUTION IS TO FORMALIZE SUCH ACTIVITIES INTO A SYSTEM WHICH IS APPROVED BY GOVERNMENTS AND IN WHICH THEY OFFICIALLY PARTICIPATE; TO EXTEND THE COVERAGE OF THE SYSTEM, IN TERMS OF COMMODITIES AND OTHER INFORMATION, BEYOND THE PRESENT ARRANGEMENTS IN FAO; TO INTENSIFY THE ANALYTICAL WORK CARRIED OUT ON THE INFORMATION OBTAINED; TO STRENGTHEN ASSISTANCE TO GOVERNMENTS IN IMPROVING AND SPEEDING UP THE COLLECTION AND DISSEMINATION OF RELEVANT DATA; AND TO ENLIST THE COOPERATION OF WMO AND OTHER INTERESTED BODIES ON WEATHER/CROP RELATIONSHIPS. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL HAS SOME EXPECTATIONS OF RECEIVING EXTRA-BUDGETARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEFRAID PART OF THE COST OF THE SYSTEM, BUT HE WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING COUNCIL AUTHORITY TO TAKE THE NECESSARY STEPS UNDER THE REGULAR PROGRAM TO PUT THE SYSTEM INTO FULL OPERATION AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

/NUTRITION/

11. CONSIDERABLE IMPORTANCE WAS ATTACHED TO NUTRITIONAL PROBLEMS DURING THE DEBATES IN THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL WOULD APPRECIATE HAVING THE COUNCIL'S CONFIRMATION OF HIS INTENTION, IN COOPERATION WITH THE AGENCIES NAMED IN THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION, TO PREPARE A PROJECT PROPOSAL FOR ASSISTING GOVERNMENTS TO DEVELOP INTER-SECTORAL FOOD AND NUTRITION PLANS, TO BE COMMUNICATED TO THE FAO COUNCIL AT ITS MID-1975 SESSION THROUGH ITS FOOD AND NUTRITION POLICY COMMITTEE. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL ALSO INTENDS, IN LINE WITH THE CONFERENCE RESOLUTION, TO OPEN DISCUSSIONS WITH WHO AND UNCLASSIFIED

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UNICEF ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A GLOBAL NUTRITION SURVEILLANCE SYSTEM, WITH A VIEW TO PREPARING A SPECIFIC PROPOSAL. IN ITS RESOLUTION ON FOLLOW-UP ACTION, THE CONFERENCE REQUESTS ECOSOC TO CONSIDER, ON AN URGENT BASIS,

THE QUESTION OF REARRANGEMENTS IN THE UNITED NATIONS SYSTEM OR NEW INSTITUTIONAL BODIES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE FOLLOW-UP ON THE RESOLUTION ON NUTRITION. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL INTENDS TO PREPARE A PAPER FOR ECOSOC ON THE MATTER, AND WOULD BE GRATEFUL FOR ANY GUIDANCE WHICH THE COUNCIL MAY WISH TO GIVE HIM ON THE SUBJECT.

/RECOMMENDATIONS NOT SPECIFICALLY ANALYSED ABOVE/

12. THERE ARE MANY OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL REGARDS AS URGENT AND IMPORTANT, BUT WHICH HAVE NOT BEEN SPECIFICALLY ANALYSED ABOVE BECAUSE THEY DO NOT SEEM TO RAISE PROBLEMS REQUIRING THE ATTENTION OF THE COUNCIL AT THE PRESENT STAGE. PARTICULAR REFERENCE MAY BE MADE TO THE PROGRAM FOR CONTROL OF AFRICAN ANIMAL TRYPA NOSOMIASIS, TO ACTION REGARDING SCIENTIFIC WATER MANAGEMENT AND TO MEASURES FOR STRENGTHENING THE FAO SEED INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM. IN RESPECT OF THESE AND OTHER RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL SEEKS FROM THE COUNCIL:

(A) AUTHORITY TO START IMPLEMENTATION IN 1975 OF THOSE RECOMMENDATIONS WHICH CAN BE ABSORBED INTO THE CURRENT PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET WITHIN THE FRAMEWORK OF PARAGRAPH 13 BELOW;

(B) SUPPORT FOR THE INCLUSION IN HIS PROPOSED PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET FOR 1976-77 OF MEASURES TO IMPLEMENT THE VARIOUS RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE CONFERENCE, WHICH CAN THEN BE REVIEWED BY THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES, THE COUNCIL AND ULTIMATELY THE CONFERENCE. HE INTENDS TO SUBMIT A SEPARATE PAPER OR PAPERS TO THE COUNCIL AT ITS SESSION IN JUNE 1975 ON POLICY ISSUES RAISED BY THE WORLD FOOD CONFERENCE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH GO BEYOND QUESTIONS RELATING TO THE ORGANIZATION'S PROGRAM OF WORK AND BUDGET. SUCH ISSUES MAY ALSO BE SUBMITTED, AS APPROPRIATE, UNCLASSIFIED

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TO THE STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL, NOTABLY THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, PRIOR TO THEIR CONSIDERATION BY THE COUNCIL ITSELF.

/FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS/

13. IT IS IMPOSSIBLE AT THIS STAGE TO PROVIDE RELIABLE COST ESTIMATES FOR THE ACTIONS IN 1975 PROPOSED ABOVE. MANY OF THEM ARE NOT ONLY CONTINGENT ON ACTION BY THE ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COUNCIL AND THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BUT ALSO INVOLVE DISCUSSIONS WITH THE UNITED NATIONS OR WITH OTHER AGENCIES.

FURTHERMORE, THERE HAS BEEN TIME SINCE THE CONFERENCE ENDED FOR ONLY A VERY SUPERFICIAL EXAMINATION OF THE POSSIBLE IMPLICATIONS OF THE MANY RELEVANT RESOLUTIONS. THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL THEREFORE SUGGESTS THAT HE BE GIVEN AUTHORITY TO MAKE COMMITMENTS, AS PROPOSED IN THIS NOTE, UTILIZING PROGRAM SAVINGS WHERE POSSIBLE AND ALSO IF NECESSARY PART OF THE CURRENCY SAVINGS WHICH ARE STILL AVAILABLE FROM 1974 AND WHICH MAY ARISE IN 1975. HE WOULD KEEP THE PROGRAM AND FINANCE COMMITTEES INFORMED OF DEVELOPMENTS, AND INsofar AS THE TIMING OF THE COMMITTEES' SESSIONS PERMITTED WOULD CONSULT THEM IN ADVANCE BEFORE ENTERING INTO SPECIFIC COMMITMENTS. THE COMMITTEES WOULD, IN PARTICULAR, BE CONSULTED BEFORE THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL MADE COMMITMENTS WHICH WOULD INVOLVE CONTINUING OBLIGATIONS FOR THE NEXT BIENNIUM.VOLPE

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